For Mr May, Tuesday

Brown and making little of the abolitionists. I have for years noticed that the literary journal was hostile to any anti slavery publication, and favorable to those that took a contrary view, no matter how insignificant in themselves. I remarked this so long ago as when Uncle Tom's cabin first appeared & before it had sprung into its unexampled popularity. A more deliberately one sided & dishonest criticism than this upon Brown's Life I have never seen — & it is directed more against Brown than the biography, which especially indicates its evil animus. If the writer be not a Southern American, or a Northern Democrat or if he have not sate at the feet of some transatlantic Gamaliel, I give up all pretension to ordinary penetration.

I greatly regret the probability of the Standard being given up. It is a most excellent and ably conducted paper and this is not the time for the abolitionists to lower their flag. — Eliza Wigham is in Dublin. We have talked over it. She says she could do nothing about raising funds as no application has been made from America. I had two notes from Mrs Chapman but I really could not gather what her wishes are. Her style is extremely obscure to my obtuse intellect. In my early days whatever else people wrote, plain intelligible English was the rule — & much as I admire what I understand of Tennyson & the Brownings, Emerson & Carlyle, I am free to confess that much of what they have written might as well have been in an unknown tongue. Mrs C. puzzles me much in the same way. I honor her most heartily, but I cannot always understand her.

Although in the compilation of Brown's Life I took every pains to let Miss Estlin see the proofs and to warn her of the probable cost - though I charged nothing on paper, binding or portraits - though Miss E. has expressed herself pleased & more than satisfied, I still cannot feel easy until the cost be as far ~~to~~ as possible reduced. I am decidedly of opinion that ~~the~~ our book is a great improvement on Redpath's - that it is a good book on a noble subject - & that the many characteristic letters confer on it a far more than temporary interest. But this may be all a delusion on my part - and if so I am sorry for the ~~cost~~ expense Miss E. has incurred & all the time & trouble Mrs Webb & I have taken for nothing.

From Mr Phillips' description I have no wish for the portraits of the Brown family though I am none the less obliged to him for his characteristically generous proposal to send them to me. As to the relics he speaks of especially the lock of Brown's hair if it makes no difference to him, I would like to have them at any time that is perfectly convenient.

Whether from the expense that Brown's Life will be to her, or because being very English she is weary of ~~the~~ what seems to her the unreasonable anger of even American abolitionists against England, Miss Estlin speaks of discontinuing the Advocate. I think this a bad time & that personal considerations should not influence the decision - and if possible I will try and carry it on if I can manage to do so without a ~~heavy~~ loss that I could not feel justified in incurring.

The Standard for August 17 has just come to hand. It contains a long letter of my own & a much abler ~~&~~ one, full of smartness & acidity, from the pen of a very young man, my wife's nephew. I knew nothing of the letter till I saw it in the paper - & only ascertained the authorship by enquiry of his cousin, my son Richard, who is his confidential friend & correspondent. I agree with him in thinking Garrison totally mistaken about the Russian war which has made Europe a much safer continent to live in - & as to ambition no conquest was at any time attempted by the powers that waged it against Russia. It prevented the conquest of Turkey: which, if

it had succeeded would have made Russia too pow-
erful by making her mistress of ~~the~~ Constantinople.
I have often unwillingly perceived that Phillips so gave way
to the great temptation which besets an orator to gratify
an audience by flattering their prejudices, as to forsake
the grand, cosmopolitan platform of truth & humanity,
and to tickle the American propensity to bully & mortify
England. Why shd he talk of conquering Canada, unless
Canada wished to be annexed. If Canada wishes for inde-
pendence of England in name as well as in fact, I am
sure she has only to say so. I think the difference
between the Unit. & England with respect to war is
this — that you do not know as well as we have heretofore
known from costly experience how much it drains of a nations treasure in
blood & money. This makes us very slow to go to war
with any but weak nations — and in this respect all
nations are actually mean. You know corporations
have no souls — and nations are huge corporations.

I liked your last letter as I like all your letters
& I think you overlook the fact that the grounds on
which you theoretically claim our approbation & sympathy
are precisely ~~such as it is~~ those which can only be
known by those who have a ready access to American
sources of information. — I am sure ~~the~~ I hope the
time will come some time when we shall all
understand & appreciate one another properly — for that's
that abolitionists should misunderstand abolitionists.

I thank Ann May for her appreciation of my judgment of American affairs. I certain my wishes are friendly to freedom & its friends, and there is something in my not being an Englishman, full of the arrogant idea of national superiority with which ~~John~~ the genuine John and Mary Bulls are so generally filled.

By the way the Queen, the Prince of Wales, Princess Alice, Princess Helena, Prince Albert & Sir Robert Peel with Lord Carlisle passed through town yesterday in open carriages to the great satisfaction of crowds of people who cheered & shouted in great style. I enjoyed the show very much & I take the loyalty which was apparent every where as an additional proof of the growing peace & prosperity of Ireland. Though, by the way, printing is a very flat business just now owing to a change in the paper duty, so that we have very little to do.

Your daughters kind wishes are heartily reciprocated by her unknown, ancient
Irish friend & well wisher
Richd D Webb

1 You may read my letter to W. Phillips & send it on -
2 also the sketch from MacMillan's magazine
3 Please forward the letter to Mrs McKim
4 I have not sent my Advocate comments as they were over
overweight & you may gather all I said in them
from the present letter

ms. B.1.6 v.15, p.62